

America approaches the 21st century as the most advanced civilization man has ever seen. We have the world's largest and most vibrant economy and remain the only military superpower left standing after the cold war. We should be looking toward the new millennium with nothing but enthusiastic expectations of greatness for ourselves and our children. Yet we confront an enemy today that threatens the very fabric of our society.

Crime in the United States is on the rise, and the violence and insecurity it breeds will erode the American people's faith in their elected government and destroy the dreams of the hundreds of millions who have pinned their hopes on our success. It is unsurprising, too, that their faith is wavering when one considers just a few of the startling facts about the demise of law and order in our country.

Today 8 out of every 10 Americans can expect to be the victim of a violent crime at least once in their lives. Since 1960, crime has increased by over 300 percent, and violent crime has gone up by over 550 percent. The rate of homicide is five times greater here than in Europe, and four times greater than in neighboring Canada. Rape in the United States is seven times more likely than in Europe.

What is even sadder is that these statistics have a disproportionate impact on our children. Teenagers are 2½ times more likely to be victims of violent crime than those over 20. And from 1960 to 1991, the rate of homicide deaths among children under age 19 more than quadrupled.

In what has become an oft-consulted collection of documents for many of the Members of this Congress, John Jay wrote in the Federalist Papers these very poignant words: "Among the many objects to which a wise and free people find it necessary to direct their attention, that of providing for their safety seems first." If indeed public safety is our first priority, then we as a body have been given an opportunity to carry out our obligation.

As the contract's crime package passes the House, I congratulate my colleagues' strong support for each of the six separate measures. The package includes a strengthening of the death penalty and longer prison sentences for criminals. It makes it more difficult for criminal aliens to remain among us, and closes loopholes in the law that for too long have set the guilty free on technicalities. It puts more police on the streets, gives local units of government wide latitude to develop crime prevention programs, and finally recognizes the rights of the victims for a change.

These reforms represent the best hope for us to begin restoring the rule of law of our land, and they reflect the will of a large majority of Americans. Most Americans believe strong, swift punishment acts as a credible deterrent to individuals who might consider committing a crime.

This package acts on that belief and reflects their philosophy in six different but important ways. It promises to make real steps toward catching, convicting, and incarcerating more murderers, rapists, and thieves.

The debate over these crime bills has embroiled us in more than an exchange of competing partisan ideas. It has in fact engaged us in a struggle that effects the very core of American society. Despite all of our Nation's glorious successes, our robust economy, our military prowess, and our clear and unquestioned recognition as the leader of the free

world, we cannot expect our Nation to survive, let alone remain on top, if it continues to rot from within.

As the discussions end, I once again congratulate my colleagues on taking swift and strong action on behalf of the well-being and safety of our Nation. We owe it to every American to make the war on crime our paramount concern, and tonight we can go home knowing that while we certainly did not solve all our problems, we have indeed made great strides in the right direction.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

HON. RON KLINK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 1995

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the League of Women Voters on their 75th anniversary.

The League of Women Voters has been a stalwart and steadfast defender of democracy in this country since 1920. Their activism has been and continues to be an example to all citizens.

In my district, the League is an undeviating participant in the electoral process. It encourages the informed and active participation of Western Pennsylvanians in their government, works to increase public understanding of major policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League emerged from the struggles of the women's suffrage movement and continued to fight on a variety of issues from child labor laws to environmental concerns. Its members, both men and women, work on problems at the State and local level as well.

I commend the League of Women Voters on three-quarters of a century of good work. I hope to participate when they reach their 100th anniversary.

THE CARL GARNER FEDERAL LANDS CLEANUP ACT

HON. BLANCHE LAMBERT LINCOLN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 1995

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a man who has given so much to his country and to the State of Arkansas. I have just introduced legislation to rename the "Federal Lands Cleanup Act," the "Carl Garner Federal Lands Cleanup Act."

This honor is well deserved as Mr. Garner was the inspiration behind the enactment of the Cleanup Act in 1985. Mr. Garner is the Resident Engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers in Greers Ferry Lake, AR, and his devotion to a cleaner environment goes back several decades.

In 1970, Mr. Garner organized a group of local volunteers to pick up trash accumulated along the shores of Greers Ferry Lake. This one day cleanup event escalated to an annual event throughout the State of Arkansas. Last year alone, more than 24,000 Arkansans participated in the cleanup at more than 100 sites in Arkansas.

This devotion to the protection of our environment attracted the attention of Senator

BUMPERS, who was the lead sponsor of the Federal Lands Cleanup Day of 1985. This bill promotes the concept of community partnership and pride in our Federal lands to protect our valuable natural resources.

It is with great pride and esteem that I rise to introduce this piece of legislation to honor Mr. Carl Garner, who embodies the notion of public service.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. THE CARL GARNER FEDERAL LANDS CLEANUP ACT.

The Federal Lands Cleanup Act of 1985 (36 U.S.C. 1691-1691-1) is amended by striking "Federal Lands Cleanup Day" each place it appears and inserting "Carl Garner Federal Lands Cleanup Day."

BALANCED BUDGET BINGO

HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 14, 1995

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, the following article is journalism at its best; it effectively translates something that is obscure, yet vital to our well being as a nation. And the translation itself is not simply one more frustrating attempt to breach the portals to the arcane.

[From the Indianapolis News, Feb. 11, 1995]

BALANCED BUDGET BINGO

(By David L. Haase)

WASHINGTON.—Can an average American citizen balance the federal budget without starving the needy, abandoning the elderly or taxing businesses out of business?

More to the point, after a middle-aged reporter does the deed, will his 71-year-old mother on Social Security still talk to him?

I dared to think so when I stepped into the basement office of the Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform, ready to tackle the deficit using its computer.

The deficit is a hot topic on Capitol Hill. Two weeks ago, the U.S. House approved an amendment to the Constitution that would require the government to balance the federal budget. The Senate is debating the issue.

But what does a balanced budget mean for Americans? The commission, now out of business, had a computer game that could tell us.

Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., forced President Clinton into naming the commission as the price of his support for the 1993 budget deal.

It was never a Clinton priority. Its office in the basement of the Russell Office Building showed that it wasn't much of a priority for the Senate either.

The staff worked at used computers plopped on aged wooden government-issue desks and tables.

The commission went kaput without its 32 members ever agreeing on a way to halt the growth of entitlement spending. The task proved too painful.

Entitlement spending is mandatory. Neither Congress nor the president can deny these funds to any eligible comer.

On the other hand, discretionary spending, which Congress approves from year to year, amounts to only 40 percent of federal spending.

In the commission's view, entitlements are THE problem with the federal budget.